THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2397. *Tuesday, Aug.* 18, 1829. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

English Opera House.

LAST night, the new melo-drama, *The Witness*, was performed, for the fourth time, with general applause. Miss Kelly, as *Catherine Henderson*, displayed that depth of pathos and those natural ebulliations of grief and horror which seize with such powerful hold on the feelings of her audience. Mr. J. Vining's acting as *Old Henderson* was really excellent; we never heard a confession of guilt more affectingly or more impressively delivered, than that made by him to *Catherine;* nor witnessed a more painfully correct pourtraiture of intense suffering than that Miss Kelly presented to us, when she fell on her knees, as the conviction of her father's guilt flashed on her; this scene excited the deepest interest, and was loudly applauded. Mr. and Mrs. Keeley supported the comic part of the drama with their accustomed ability. It is, we hear, the production of Mr. T. H. Bayly, of Bath, a gentleman known as the author of the song of 'The Butterfly;' he must feel deeply indebted to the performers generally, and to Miss Kelly and Mr. J. Vining especially, for the decided success of this, his first dramatic effort.

Military Tactics followed, and *Der Freischuetz* concluded. In the second piece, Mr. Thorne was encored, after considerable opposition, in his song; and a second repetition of it being demanded by a number of unruly persons, which occasioned a great uproar, Mr. Bartley came forward and stated, that the practice was very inconsiderate to the individual concerned, particularly annoying to the principal part of the audience, and deterring the other performers from proceeding with their parts. He, therefore, left it on a fair statement to their own *good tastes* to remain quiet. The noise ceased, and the Gods were appeased.—The house was well attended.

Haymarket Theatre.

THE Opera of *Rob Roy* was performed at this Theatre last night, solely for the purpose, we should imagine, of exhibiting Liston in his favorite part of *Baillie Nicol Jarvie;* and never did we see him play it with greater talent or more ludicrous effect. His quarrel with *Major Galbraith;* his interview with *Helen* after his capture; and the scene with *Rob Roy*, where he offers to take one of his sons apprentice; were played with consummate skill, and called forth the loudest plaudits. Mr. Cooper gave a vigorous portrait of the bold outlaw, *Rob Roy*, and gained a good deal of applause. Webster displayed considerable tact and melo-dramatic knowledge in his performance of *Dougal;* his acting in the Tolbooth was really very clever.

The Helen Macgregor, of Mrs. W. Clifford, deserves commendation; it was an energetic and judicious performance, nor do we know any actress who would have done more for the character, always excepting Mrs. Egerton. Mrs. H. Corri, as *Diana Vernon*, had but little to do, except to sing two or three songs, which she did in a pleasing manner; but she introduced too many ornaments, as the national airs in her part could not be sung with too much simplicity. Mrs. T. Hill played the trifling part of *Mattie*, exceedingly well. *The Happiest Day of my Life*, was played by way of Interlude, followed by *Tom Thumb*. J. Reeve was the *Lord Grizzle*, but J. Reeve playing burlesque, is like carrying coals to Newcastle. Shall we never see Liston again in the part? we fear not. Certain it is, we shall never see his little dumpling of a wife in *Dollalolla* again, and she has had no successor yet worthy to bear her train in the part.—The house was full.

We have authority for stating, that Mr. Elliston has written to Mr. Kean, offering him the sum of £700 in exchange for the exercise of his talents for one month at the Surrey Theatre.—*The Weekly Dispatch.*

In consequence of the retirement of Mrs. Granby Calcraft Love, from Drury Lane Theatre, Miss Graddon has been engaged to supply her place.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Dear Mr Editor, I address you from the Cigar Divan, King-street, Covent Garden, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines, and play a game of Chess—delightful place——Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

On Monday, must take another peep at the two new views, at the Diorama, Regent's Park—was puzzled to decide which was the most beautiful, St. Peter's or the Village of Thiers—both exquisitely painted—the pictorial illusion complete—the water flowing, smoke ascending, sun shining—quite nature itself.—Had difficulty to persuade a fair lady next me, that we were really viewing merely pictures. Shall put off my journey to Italy, as I'm told, *sub rosa*, we shall have other views from that classic soil; and if as good as St. Peter's will satisfy me.

On Tuesday, I drop into the Exhibition of Sculpture, in Old Bond Street, to view the figures, life size, of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny—work of a self-taught artist, James Thom—delighted beyond measure—fully expected to hear Tam's uproarious laugh—the expression so perfect; *pose* of figures admirable. Whoever has read Burns, (and who has not?) must see them.

On Wednesday, I step into the Horse Bazaar, Baker Street—inspect the magnificent Exhibition of Musical and Mechanical Automa—Musical Lady, Juvenile Artist, Rope Dancer, Magician, Walking Figure, a magnificent Vase, made by order of Napoleon, Birds, &c.

On Friday, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.—but I intrude—beg pardon.

Your's, PAUL PRY.

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Theatre Royal, English Opera.

This Evening, (first time) a new Musical Entertainment, called

The Spring Lock!

Preceded by Weber's Overture to PRECIOSA.

The rest of the Music by Mr G. H. RODWELL.

Lorenzo de Medici, (Grand Duke of Florence) Mr WOOD,
Ludovico de Medici, (his Cousin) Mr J. BLAND,
Giulio.... ....(in the Suite of Ludovico)..... Mr JAMES VINING,
Count Montefieri, Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Monaco, (a Comic Actor) Mr J. RUSSELL, Zenobio. Mr FULLER,
Camaldoli, (Confidant of Lorenzo) Mr BENSON HILL,
Doctor Manente, } Rival Physicians of Florence { Mr KEELEY,
Doctor Flamingo, } { Mr O. SMITH,
Burchiello, Mr IRWIN, Amadore, Mr MILLER,
Mazzoneschi, (a Black Servant) Mr HEATH, Lucillo, Mr EAST.
Aramantha, (Daughter of Count Montefieri) Miss CAWSE,
Vergellina, (her Attendant) Mrs KEELEY,
Monna Brigida, (Wife of Doctor Manente) Mrs C. JONES.

SCENERY.

Act I—Scene 1—Outside of a Tavern in the City of Florence. 2—Garden of the Montefieri Palace, adjoining the Medici Palace. 3—Chamber in Doctor Manente's House. 4—Saloon in Lorenzo's Palace. 5—The Garden by Moonlight. 6—The Interior of the Upper Story of the Turret. antique Cabinet with THE SPRING LOCK.
ACT II—Scene 1—Apartment in the Palace. 2—Saloon in the Montefieri Palace. 3—An Attic with bare Walls—the Mystification of Doctor Manente.
ACT III—Scene 1—Exterior of Doctor Manente's Town House. 2—An Olive Wood in the Suburbs of Florence. 3—Interior of the Physician's House.—4—Apartment in the Turret—The Cabinet and SPRING LOCK.

To which will be added, the Comic Operetta of

He "Lies like Truth."

Preceded by 'The Harmonious Blacksmith.

Sir Charles Manly, Mr BAKER, Mr Truepenny, Mr W. BENNETT,
Rattler, Mr WRENCH, Clincher, Mr BENSON HILL,
Harriet.....Miss GRAY, Priscilla.....Mrs KEELEY.

To conclude with the Romance of

The Bottle Imp!

Albert.....(a German Traveller).....Mr WOOD,
Willibald, (his Servant) Mr KEELEY,
Waldeck, Mr F. MATTHEWS, Conrade, (his Son,) Mr BAKER,
Nicola, (a Spaniard) Mr J. VINING,
Shadrac, Mr MINTON, Jomelli, (a Musqueteer) Mr SALTER,
The Bottle Imp, Mr O. SMITH.
Marcella, (Daughter of Waldeck) Miss CAWSE,
Lucretia.... Miss PINCOTT, Philippa.....Miss H. CAWSE.

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening, (5th time) a new Comic Piece, called

Nothing Superfluous.

The Sultan Selim, Mr THOMPSON,
Giafer, Mr BRINDAL, Sadi, Mr J. REEVE,
Ganem, Mr COOKE, Bobbo, Mr COATES.
Gulnare, Mrs H. CORRI,

After which, (by Permission of Stephen Price, Esq.) the Comedy of

Ups and Downs.

Earl Delamere.....Mr BRINDAL,
Mr Mammonton, Mr COOPER,
Mr Felix Mudberry.....Mr LISTON,
Jack Pointer, Mr VINING,
Christopher Higgins.....Mr WEBSTER,
Countess Delamere, Mrs W. CLIFFORD,
Lady Charlewood.....Mrs ASHTON,
Amelia Mammonton, Miss F. H. KELLY,
Mrs Corderoy.....Mrs GLOVER,
Kitty Corderoy, Mrs HUMBY.

To which will be added, the Farce of

Fish out of Water.

Sam Savoury, Mr LISTON,
Sir George Courtly.....Mr THOMPSON,
Alderman Gayfare, Mr WILLIAMS,
Steward, Mr W. Johnson, William, Mr Coates,
Charles Gayfare, Mr VINING.
Ellen Courtly.....Mrs ASHTON,
Lucy, Mrs W. JOHNSON.

To conclude with the Farce of

Modern Antiques.

Mr Cockletop, Mr W. FARREN,
Frank.....Mr VINING, Joey.....Mr WEBSTER,
Napkin, Mr COVENEY, John, Mr BISHOP,
Hearty, Mr W. JOHNSON, Thomas, Mr C. MORRIS.
Mrs Cockletop, Mrs W. CLIFFORD, Belinda, Mrs ASHTON,
Nan, Mrs T. HILL, Flounce, Miss BARNETT,
Mrs Cammomile, Mrs COVENEY, Betty, Mrs W. JOHNSON.